A MESSAGE FROM DR. ELIZABETH A. THROOP, COLLEGE OF LAE DEAN

As the semester draws to a close and students engage in their final exams, campus is becoming more and more quiet. We have lost all of our snow (I’m sure just temporarily) as the holidays approach. Members of the senior leadership team have been grappling with some serious budgetary issues, and we are not done yet. Unfortunately, significant cuts are likely as we face the new year. Chancellor Shields is determined, however, to preserve academic budgets as much as possible. So I watch our students study, take exams, give final presentations, recitals, and shows, and get ready to go home for awhile. Everyone in LAE wishes them good luck with their hard work, and happy holidays for everyone from the LAE Dean’s Office.

FACULTY FORUM: WHAT IS HAPPINESS?

Approximately 60 people attended the College of LAE’s faculty forum, “What is Happiness? The Contemporary Relevance of an Ancient Debate,” on Dec. 4, including faculty members from philosophy, economics, psychology, German, mathematics, English, and Engineering.

Dr. Shane Drefcinski, Professor of philosophy, presented a number of ancient philosophies about the nature of happiness. In response, Dr. Sean Shiverick, Assistant Professor of psychology, discussed recent psychological research into happiness, using it to argue that happiness can vary in quality and quantity—that we can be more or less happy—and that happiness can be increased. Drefcinski then responded by noting how Aristotle could accommodate this research, but would insist that happiness is more than an emotion—it is an activity that includes emotion but also includes thinking and choosing.

MCCABE RECEIVES HEALTH EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Congratulations to Dr. Colleen McCabe, Associate Professor and Chair of the department of health and human performance, who recently received the Health Educator of the Year Award from Wisconsin Health and Physical Education. Candidates for the award must have made significant contributions to the health education profession in the areas of teaching, research, and creative activities or service. McCabe has worked in health education for more than 25 years.

“I have been given many opportunities because of the support I receive from the College of Liberal Arts and Education’s administration,” McCabe said. “Because of that support, I have, in turn, been able to support the health and human performance faculty members and students. I am thrilled that UW-Platteville’s HHP programs are instrumental in increasing awareness of health education in Southwest Wisconsin and beyond.”

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to those who received awards at the LAE Award Recognition Reception held in the Nohr Gallery on Dec. 11.

Connie Saloutos Furlan
Lecturer, department of performing and visual arts; LAE Academic Staff Excellence in Teaching Award

Sara K. Koeller
Academic Department Associate, department of humanities; LAE Excellence in Service Award

University Rank, Salary, and Tenure Policy Commission
LAE Excellence in Teamwork Award

GEOGRAPHY STUDENT WINS FIRST PLACE

Marty Green, a senior geography major, recently won “Best Undergraduate Oral Presentation” at Riveredge Nature Center’s student research symposium in Saukville, Wisconsin. Sara Allen, Jessica Kleckner, Giselle Varrientos, Amanda Bollant, and Rebecca Homa also presented. UW-Platteville’s Dr. Evan Larson, Dr. Lynette Dornak, Dr. Kristopher Wright, and Dr. John Peterson mentored the students.

HAVE NEWS THAT YOU’D LIKE FEATURED IN THE NEXT LAE NEWSLETTER? SEND IT TO LAEPR@UWPLATT.EDU.
MAKING SENSE OF FERGUSON

On Nov. 18, the College of LAE held the forum, “Making Sense of Ferguson: Race, Police, and Community Rights,” to discuss issues surrounding the controversial case in Ferguson, Missouri. About 300 students, faculty, staff, and community members attended the forum. Forum presenters included Dr. Rosalyn Broussard, Professor of political science; Dr. David Gillota, Assistant Professor of English; Dr. Frank King, Assistant Professor of ethnic studies; and Dr. Patrick Solar, Assistant Professor of criminal justice and a retired police chief.

This spring, the College of LAE will sponsor a series, “Beyond Ferguson: Where Do We Go From Here?” that will examine issues and solutions to race in America.

FAMILY MATH NIGHTS

This fall semester, 38 students in the School of Education’s Teaching Mathematics and Science in Early Childhood and Elementary Setting course cooperated with the teaching staffs at Ridgeway Elementary School and Dodgeville Elementary School to present two Family Math Nights. Under the direction of Dr. Jodean Grunow, Senior Lecturer of mathematics; Dr. Leigh Monhardt, Associate Professor of education; and Erin Edgington, STEM Coordinator for the School of Education, the university students worked with the elementary school teachers to develop lesson plans, activities, and games for a family mathematics experience for children of varying ages and their parents. More than 175 children and adults attended the events.

STUDENTS DESIGN ACTIVITIES FOR STEM DISCOVERY CENTER

Thirty-eight students enrolled in the School of Education’s K–4 Methods of Cognitive Development course designed elementary-level activities for Family Connections of Southwest Wisconsin to use at its new STEM Discovery Center, located in the former O.E. Gray building in Platteville. The collaborative effort began this fall when Sabrina Earl, Executive Director of Family Connections of Southwest Wisconsin, contacted Dr. Lindsay Hollingsworth, Assistant Professor of education, and Erin Edgington, STEM Coordinator for the School of Education, with an invitation for methods students to design activities for the new center.

STUDENTS WRITE FIELD REPORTS ON SCENE AT FICSH

Approximately 95 students enrolled in the Technical Writing course recently gained experience in technical communication by writing an informational field report on a scene presented at the university’s Forensic Investigation Crime Scene House. Karen Pluemer, English Lecturer, teaches the course.

Soofi has paper accepted for publication

“China’s Foreign Direct Investments: Challenges of Due Diligence and Organizational Integration,” written by Dr. Abdol Soofi, Professor of economics, was accepted for publication in the March 2015 issue of Journal of Economic and Political Studies. The editorial office of the journal is located at Renmin University of China, an institution of higher learning in social sciences and humanities located in Beijing.
FROM THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS ...

On Nov. 12, the CFA hosted “An Irish Christmas” as part of the Performing Arts Series. The ensemble performed a variety of traditional Irish music, songs, and dance and weaved “a bit o’ magic” for the entire audience. The group has received sponsorship from Tourism Ireland, the official travel bureau of Ireland, for the authenticity of their performances. On Nov. 17, alternative folk artist Suzanne Vega performed at the CFA as part of the Performing Arts Series. Vega, who won an MTV Video Music Award in 1988 and a Grammy in 1991, has been traveling in support of her newest album, “Tales From the Realm of the Queen of Pentacles.” Her distinctive, clear voice held the audience spell-bound as she performed both new and old material and ended the night with her Top 10 hit “Luka.”

— Michael Breitner, Director of arts facilities and series

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS ...

The department of performing and visual arts continued its busy and successful role as the cultural center for our region. While the end of the fall semester was in sight, there were still great performances to enjoy in December. On Dec. 2, our percussion studio presented a recital featuring a wide variety of exciting music from the world of percussion. On Dec. 6–7, the concert hall was filled with the wonderful vocal sounds of our excerpts of some of the greatest operas ever composed at the “The Pioneer Family: Come On, Sing Opera.” On Dec. 8, our chamber players presented a concert of music for small ensembles and on Dec. 10 the University Symphony Band presented a concert of classics for band. Our Holiday Gala rang in the most wonderful time of the year on Dec. 12-13 and raised more than $10,000 for the Music Scholarship Fund. For more information, please contact the department of performing and visual arts at 608.342.1143.

— Dr. Daniel Fairchild, Professor of music and Interim Co-chair of the department of performing and visual arts

MONINSKI’S PAINTINGS FEATURED IN EXHIBITION

Seven paintings created by Richard Moninski, Distinguished Lecturer of art, were recently on display at “Salvage: A Group Exhibition of Contemporary Artists,” held at Gertz Gallery at Parkland College in Champaign, Illinois. Moninski’s featured works included large acrylic paintings on printed camouflage fabrics and smaller works on paper that combined an assortment of traditional media with digital prints.

ALCALAY CHOSEN FOR JURY PANEL

Dr. Eugene Alcalay, Professor of music, was chosen for the jury panel at the 13th biennial Los Angeles International Liszt Competition held Nov. 21–23 at Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, California. Judith Nesleny, Co-Director of LAILC, chose Alcalay for the jury panel.

PUBLICATION CO-AUTHORED BY LARSON FEATURED

A publication co-authored by Dr. Evan Larson and colleagues at the University of Arizona and Western Washington University was recently featured in a news release from a top-ranked scientific journal, Environmental Research Letters. The publication, titled “Changing climate response in near-treeline bristlecone pine with elevation and aspect,” expands understanding of how tree-ring-based climate reconstructions can be used to examine long-term changes in the Earth’s climate system and what this means for understanding climate change. To read the news release, go to http://environmentalresearchweb.org/cws/article/news/59446. The paper is available at http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/9/11/114007/article, or can be requested by email from Larson.

SHEPHERD’S LIVIN’ ON BORROWED TIME HITS NO. 1

Livin’ on Borrowed Time, a song by Stephen Shepherd, Senior Lecturer in English composition, hit number one on the New Music Weekly Country Internet Main Chart top 85 issued Nov. 7. A feature about Shepherd was included in the Nov. 18 Platteville Journal: www.swnews4u.com/section/161/article/24773/.

I AM MALALA PROJECT

Students in the Basic Design 2-D course, taught by Richard Moninski, Distinguished Lecturer of art, created an eight-panel series of images—modeled after story boards for films and videos or pages from graphic novels—to convey the main threads of a narrative they chose from I Am Malala. Students had the freedom to choose any media, whether traditional or digital, to execute these artworks. They were instructed to pay special attention to changes in scale, contrast, direction, lighting, spatial relationships, and point of view in order to present a variety of compositional strategies in the sequence of frames.
Pioneer Spotlights

Dr. Lindsay Hollingsworth

Dr. Lindsay Hollingsworth, Assistant Professor of education, has been in the field of education for 14 years and is beginning her third year at UW-Platteville. She teaches courses in reading, literacy and literature as well as K–4 methods of cognitive development. She also leads the Campus Read outreach program and recruits UW-Platteville students to lead book clubs in area high schools with the Campus Read book.

What do you enjoy most about teaching education classes?
I enjoy the opportunity to prepare future teachers. In my role as a clinical professor, I coach our students in elementary classrooms and teach methods classes on campus. It is a great privilege to observe our UW-Platteville students develop into skilled teachers.

What impresses you the most about your students?
Our students are kind-hearted and hardworking. They are open to learning research-based methods of instruction to impact student learning. Their energy and excitement inspires me.

What do you want high school and college students to get out of I Am Malala?
I hope that they can realize the great privilege they have to have access to education in the United States, a right not afforded to all young people. I also hope they can recognize the great impact that a single person can have to inspire change.

To read Hollingsworth’s complete Pioneer Spotlight, go to www.uwplatt.edu/news/pioneer-spotlight-dr-lindsay-hollingsworth.

Richard Moninski


What do you enjoy most about teaching art classes?
It’s hard to pick one thing, but I enjoy using creative energy to help people. I enjoy seeing the look of revelation on people’s faces when they realize the things they can do. Seeing dramatically surprising results is a satisfying feeling.

What do you want students to take away from your classes?
I want them to take away the thought that this is the beginning of the lifelong pursuit of creativity and making their ideas real. It won’t happen without a lot of hard work. Professors in the art program are rooting for students. Students may not realize how much we want them to succeed. Sometimes, they get the wrong idea about grading and critiques and they take it at a personal level. We are trying to be supportive and get them to be the best artists they can be and prepare them for professional life.

Why is it important for people to try to include art in their lives?
It’s an important part of being a human being; to nourish creative impulses is a really satisfying thing.

To read Moninski’s complete Pioneer Spotlight, go to www.uwplatt.edu/news/pioneer-spotlight-richard-moninski

Tucker has book published

Dr. Amanda Tucker, Associate Professor of English at UW-Platteville, recently published her book, Where Motley is Worn: Transnational Irish Literatures, coedited by Moira Casey. The book contains 10 essays that investigate how the multiple connections Ireland has fostered with diverse parts of the globe—such as Asia, the Caribbean, and Latin America—have influenced its literary output and production in the 19th–21st centuries.

Mediation team reaches semi-finals

The UW-Platteville mediation team competed in the National Intercollegiate Mediation Tournament held at Brenau University in Gainesville, Georgia, in November. The team of UW-Platteville students Samantha Frey, Emily Bobke, and Ryan Thill reached the semi-finals for the second straight year. Dr. John Rink, Professor of political science, Chair of the department of social sciences and Coach of the team, pointed out this is only the second year that the tournament had a semi-final round. “Our students proved once again that they can compete with anybody, anywhere,” he said.

Severe weather climatologist discusses storms that spawned tornadoes

The department of geography hosted Dr. Kenny Blumenfeld, a severe weather climatologist, blogger, and filmmaker, on Nov. 21 to discuss the weather and climate of Southwest Wisconsin, including a discussion of the storms that spawned the tornadoes of June 16. More than 100 people attended the event.

Photographer Mark Hirsch discusses writing